

claims could not have been timely filed previously because they were for disabled employees whose former employers continued to pay as primary.

These employers acted honorably by continuing to pay claims from these employees as the primary payor because they were not made aware of clarifying language enacted by the Congress by OBRA in 1993, a change that HCFA did not care to publicize. Even though the Congress in 1993 directed HCFA by clarifying the statute that Medicare is to act as the primary payor for insurance claims for "disabled active individuals," many American employers still have not been able to be fully and lawfully reimbursed and fully benefit from the legislative change intended by the Congress by passage of OBRA in 1993.

As a result, the Congress should once again act to direct the Administrator of HCFA to fully rectify what was originally intended by the Congress in 1993, namely to direct HCFA not to subject this unique and special class of American employees and their respective Medicare claims to the standard Medicare timely filing regulations. These claims are not in any way similar to normal Medicare claims because they could never have been submitted previously or in a timely fashion due to the problems I have illuminated in these remarks. Medicare claims are normally submitted immediately upon or shortly after medical treatment. Though Medicare regulations allow for an exception to their timely filing guidelines if there is an error on the part of the Secretary, HCFA has refused to apply this exception to the special situation we have before us. Even more startling to this Chamber should be the fact that this very HCFA policy was determined to be illegal, unlawful and invalid as a matter of federal administrative law by a U.S. District Court in the District of Columbia in 1999 because of HCFA's failure to promulgate a valid federal regulation to support the Agency's policy determination, in the case *SUNTRUST BANKS, INC. v. Donna Shalala*, Secretary of Health and Human Services, CA. No. 96

TRIBUTE TO GERALD MAYO

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise today to congratulate to Mr. Gerald Mayo of Estes Park, Colorado, who was recently named honorary-chairman of the National Small Business Advisory Council. For this, Mr. Speaker, the United States Congress should commend him.

The National Small Business-Advisory Council provides a link between small business owners and Members of Congress, the purpose of the council is to give input on economic and tax issues while also participating in private surveys and policy briefings. The council achieves this through participation in strategy sessions and national meetings with local, state and national leaders. I applaud the National Small Business Advisory Council and its new chairman Gerald Mayo, for creating an

alliance between the nation's leadership and the small business community.

A broker for Prudential Team Realty, Gerald Mayo has first-hand experience with small businesses. His leadership and dedication to small businesses across the nation is commendable and greatly appreciated. Gerald is truly a shining example for all Americans.

A constituent of Colorado's Forth Congressional District, Gerald not only makes his community proud, but also his state and country. It is a true honor to have such an extraordinary citizen in Colorado. I ask the House to join me in extending wholehearted congratulations to Mr. Gerald Mayo.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARGARET PARX HAYS

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in recognition of Margaret Parx Hays, a devoted community servant and former Mayor who initiated a drive to restore The Santa Fe Depot in the city of Gainesville, Texas. Margaret is a distinguished native of Gainesville and has devoted considerable energy, drive, and creativity to bringing this project to fruition. Her efforts not only saved an historically significant building but helped make the community aware of an important part of their history.

This particular station, constructed in 1902, was Gainesville's second depot. The city, itself, received its first passenger train on January 2, 1887. The depot is an elegant redbrick building that served the Santa Fe line when it was originally constructed. Without Margaret's devotion to her community, though, the station would have remained an abandoned relic. Now it plays host to many community gatherings.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great thanks and appreciation that I recognize the energy and efforts of Margaret Parx Hayes, who organized the effort to return the Santa Fe Depot in Gainesville, Texas to its original beauty. I have had the pleasure of knowing—and working with Margaret—for many years. This would be a better world, with more kindness and caring, and more success in the healthy growth of a city or area, if we had Margaret Parx Hays in each of our cities. She is, other than being a wonderful person, a great asset to the city of Gainesville—and all who live there who want and expect to have gracious living. Margaret brings this to the table of public service because she cares.

Let us close this House of Representatives on this day, December 18, 2001, in loving respect and eternal gratitude, to this kind, loving and generous woman.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE MARY ALICE SALIZAR

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an American patriot, Mary Alice Salizar, who is retiring the end of this turbulent year.

A native of Corpus Christi, Texas, Ms. Salizar has served in the judicial branch of our government since the early 1970s. She spent the early part of her career working for local attorneys and as a court reporter.

She wanted to be part of the federal court system, and in 1973, she became part of the U.S. District Clerk's office. She has been an integral part of the office since then.

Likewise, she has been an integral part of our community, working with children and young people from low-income families and communities through her church. In doing so, she is part of a tradition of doing the most fundamental work Jesus instructed Christians to do: help the poor.

While she intends on spending a great deal of time on her crafts, quilting and others pastimes, she nevertheless intends to continue her tradition of service to community through volunteering at a public school or as a senior Candy Stripper at a local hospital.

Mary Alice Salizar is the example for others to follow, both in the course of her life's work and her desire to continue that service by volunteering in the fields of health and education.

She will now also be spending more time with her family, the people who supported her during her service to the community including: her husband Pedro Salizar; their children Mark, Rick and David; and their grandchildren Annaliza and Estevan Marcos.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the life's work of Mary Alice Salizar, who has spent the better part of her professional life as part of the federal judicial system.

HONORING THE ENLISTED MEN AND WOMEN OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce legislation that I have introduced to request that the Secretary of the Navy name a U.S. Navy warship the "U.S.S. Bluejacket" in honor of the courageous Americans who have served as enlisted members in the United States Navy.

My resolution also requests that this vessel bear the hull designation number "1776" to reflect the freedom and independence protected and preserved by the millions of enlisted men and women who have proudly served in the United States Navy. Our Navy, as well as for the nation, would be well served to have a ship bearing the hull number 1776.